

belts are positioned on each side of the fibrous material web to guide the fibrous material web through said press nip,

wherein at least one of said at least two press belts comprises a water permeable wire web, and at least one of said at least two sealing belts comprises an open press surface that is at least one of blind bored and grooved, and

wherein, prior to said press nip, at least one of said at least two press belts is guided around a deflection roll structured and arranged as a belt travel control roll.

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 6, 21, and 22 will have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1 - 9 and 12 - 41 currently remain pending.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has rejected to the claims based upon formal matters and over the art of record. By the present amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Amendment is Proper for Entry

Applicant submits that, as claims 6, 21, and 22 have merely been presented into independent forms, the instant amendment does not raise any question of new matter nor any new issues for consideration by the Examiner.

Accordingly, entry of the amendment and consideration of the accompanying remarks is requested.

Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1. DE '048 and/or Schiel as necessary with MacDonald further with Dahl and/or Meinander, and further with Justus

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1 - 9 and 12 - 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over German Patent Application No. 298 11 048 [hereinafter "DE '048"] or SCHIEL et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,396) [hereinafter "SCHIEL"] and further as necessary with MacDONALD et al. (*Pulp and Paper Manufacture*, 2nd ed., Vol. III ("Papermaking and Paperboard Making")) [hereinafter "MacDONALD"], further with DAHL (U.S. Patent No. 4,915,790) and/or MEINANDER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,492,611) [hereinafter "MEINANDER"], and further in view of JUSTUS et al. (U.S. Patent No. Re 31,923) [hereinafter "JUSTUS"]. The Examiner asserts that, in addition to the rejections set forth on pages 1 - 6 in the first Official Action, DAHL has been applied for purportedly showing (col. 5, lines 20 - 24) that it is known to replace a press felt with either felts, foils or wires, and, therefore, it would have been obvious to replace the press felt with a water permeable wire web, as recited in the independent claims. Moreover, the Examiner points out that MEINANDER discloses that a water pervious belt 8, e.g., a fabric wire, can be utilized to increase the dewatering capacity of a water pervious and/or absorbing felt 7, e.g., a press felt, running with a web 3 through a nip. Applicant traverses the Examiner's

assertions.

By way of review, Applicant notes that the instant invention is directed to double-felted shoe press, which, as shown in Figure 1 of the instant application, are conventionally driven on only one side of the web. This conventional arrangement suffers from several disadvantages, *inter alia*, that relatively strong lateral and/or shearing forces occur in the press nip in the web travel direction, and that, as the press nip length increases, so do these forces. Further, as the felts change their dimensions due to the wear in the press nip, these forces become stronger.

To address this deficiency of the conventional press, the instant inventor utilizes driven continuous press belts, e.g., formed by a dewatering belt, in order to guide the web through a double press nip, whereby the above-noted lateral and/or shearing forces are avoided. In accordance with the foregoing, Applicant's independent claims 1, 23, and 37 recite, *inter alia*, at least one of said *at least two press belts* comprises a water permeable wire web, and at least one of said *at least two sealing belts* comprises an open press surface that is at least one of blind bored and grooved (in terms of independent claim 1). Moreover, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied documents teaches or suggests the above-noted combination of features.

Applicant notes that base reference DE '048 is directed to a pressing arrangement (*see* Figure 5) in which an apparent flat nip is formed between shoe press rolls 20 and 22. A press

jacket 40 is guided around the upper press shoe of shoe press roll 20, and, while not specifically identified in the document, a press jacket is likely guided around the lower press shoe of shoe press roll 22. While not specifically identified in Figure 5, other Figures in the cited document indicate that a pair of *press felts* (upper press felt 14 and lower press felt 18) are guided through the nip. Moreover, Applicant notes that DE '048 fails to provide any teaching or suggestion that any roll, other than roll 24, is a driven roll. Thus, it would appear that, while somewhat analogous to the double felted press discussed in the Background of the Invention section of the instant application and illustrated in prior art Figure 1, DE '048 fails to teach that any of the disclosed belts are driven.

In the instant rejection, the Examiner, while acknowledging that DE '048 does not teach or suggest the recited press belts, asserts that, from the teaching of DAHL, it would have been obvious to modify DE '048 to utilize press belts in place of the felts. However, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the art of record fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of replacing press felts with a press belt.

In particular, the Examiner refers to column 5, lines 20 - 24 of DAHL in support of her assertion that a press wire (and, in particular, the recited water permeable wire web) is a known alternative for use as a press felt, and that it would have been obvious to replace the press felt of DE '048 with a wire web. However, Applicant submits that the art of record fails to support this assertion.

In particular, Applicant notes that the arrangement of DAHL shows a press felt 7 *and* a storage belt or band 9 located between the felt and the roll surface. The disclosure referred to by the Examiner is directed to known constitutions for storage band 9, i.e., to form the belt to separate press felt 7 from the roll surface. In this regard, while DAHL discloses that storage band 9 can be formed by, *inter alia*, a felt or a wire, there is no teaching or suggestion by DAHL that a felt and a wire are universally interchangeable. In fact, Applicant submits that, within the context of the disclosure of DAHL, it is apparent that, with regard to storage band 9, which is arranged to separate felt 7 from the roll surface, one could utilize a wire or a felt.

However, Applicant notes that DE '048 fails to disclose a storage belt arranged to separate the felt from the roll, and that, as the disclosed press felts of DE '048 are not utilized for the same purpose as the storage band of DAHL, it would not have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art to replace the felt of DE '048 with a wire, based upon DAHL's teaching regarding storage bands.

Further, as the express disclosure of DAHL provides that press felt 7 and storage band 9 are used in conjunction with each other, there is no teaching or suggestion of replacing press felt 7 with a wire web. Thus, Applicant further submits that the art of record fails to teach or suggest the necessary motivation or rationale for combining the documents in the manner asserted by the Examiner.

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, DAHL fails to provide any teaching or suggestion that a press felt, such as press felt 7 of DAHL or the press felts of DE '048 can be replaced with a wire web. As such, Applicant submits that the asserted combination of documents fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, at least one of said *at least two press belts* comprises a water permeable wire web, as recited in at least independent claims 1, 23, and 37.

With regard to MEINANDER, Applicant notes that the disclosed press is formed by two water impervious belts 4 and 5 arranged to form a press nip. Moreover, within the defined press nip, the web 3 is arranged to be pressed between water impervious belt 4 on one side and a press felt 7 on the other side. On the side of press belt 7 opposite the web, the press also includes a water pervious belt 8, which can be a fabric wire, then water impervious belt 5.

Because MEINANDER fails to teach or suggest a double felted press, which is the subject of DE '048, Applicant submits that MEINANDER fails to provide any teaching or suggestion for modifying the double felted press of DE '048 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicant notes that, as MEINANDER does not teach or suggest an arrangement for two-sided water removal, and, in fact, expressly discloses that the one side of web is supported by *water impermeable belt 4*, the art of record fails to provide the requisite motivation or rationale for modifying the double felted arrangement of DE '048 in

view of teachings in the unrelated press nip of MEINANDER.

Further, even assuming, *arguendo*, that the Examiner's assertions regarding modifying DE '048 in light of DAHL were believed to be obvious (which Applicant submits they would not), the resulting apparatus would be a double wire press. As such, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to modify this arrangement in view of the teachings of MEINANDER, since MEINANDER does not relate to double wire presses, and, in fact, is not even directed to a wire press.

Still further, even assuming, *arguendo*, that one were to find it obvious to combine DE '048, DAHL, and MEINANDER in the manner asserted by the Examiner (which Applicant submits one would not), Applicant notes that the asserted combination still fails to teach or suggest driven press belts, as recited in at least in the independent claims. In particular, Applicant notes that the inventor of the instant invention has found that the two driven press belts avoid the undesired lateral and/or shear forces of the prior art presses, and that none of the applied documents appreciate this problem identified by the inventor. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the no proper combination of these documents can even arguably overcome the problem addressed by the present invention.

While the Examiner asserts that MacDONALD teaches that all rolls and cylinders will one day be driven, Applicant submits that this disclosure is merely a theory and not a positive teaching in the art. As such, while it may provide guidance for practitioners in future

endeavors, to facilitate moving of the web, there is no teaching or suggestion of the above-noted problem to be addressed by the instant invention. That is, MacDONALD fails to appreciate the problem of lateral and/or shear forces that arises in conventional presses, and certainly fails to positively identify driving press belts, as recited in at least the independent claim. Further, MacDONALD's general statements regarding what may happen in the future is not a positive teaching that all rolls should be driven, which appears to be the Examiner's interpretation of MacDONALD's theory, and, therefore, cannot be relied upon a teaching for modifying the art of record in the manner asserted by the Examiner.

Applicant notes that the applied portion of the document is related to helper motors, and it is disclosed that, helper motors may likely become more prevalent (but not necessarily) in the art to assist the driving of rolls and cylinders *which are currently driven only by belts*. However, Applicant notes that the pending claims are directed to driving *the belts*, which would appear opposite theory posited by MacDONALD.

Further, MacDONALD provides a chart of various rolls and cylinders for which helper motors will likely be utilized. However, MacDONALD has not stated that one day a drive will be on *every* roll or cylinder in a papermaking machine, nor is there any teaching or suggestion of driving press belt on each side of the web, as recited in the independent claims.

Moreover, notwithstanding his general discussion of helper motors, MacDONALD

fails to teach or suggest the problem to be addressed by the present invention, i.e., to avoid lateral and/or shear forces that arise in the conventional presses which are only driven on one side of the web. Thus, Applicant notes that it is not apparent that the use of helper motors in the areas identified by MacDONALD would address or overcome the problem identified and solved by the present invention.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertions regarding JUSTUS, Applicant notes that this document likewise fails to teach or suggest the above-noted deficiencies of the applied art, and certainly fails to disclose or suggest the necessary motivation or rationale that would render the combination of the above-noted documents proper.

Further still, Applicant notes that SCHIEL has been applied in conjunction with or in lieu of DE '048. In this regard, Applicant notes that, while SCHIEL discloses a flat nip press device having a web guide belt 6 arranged as a drive belt for the press, there is no teaching or suggestion that this guide belt comprises a water permeable wire web, as recited in at least independent claims 1, 23, and 37.

While the Examiner has noted that the guide belt of SCHIEL may be a felt belt, the art of record, as has been fully discussed above, fails to teach or suggest that a wire web can be universally substituted for a felt belt. Further, even assuming that such a modification were made (which Applicant submits would not have been obvious), Applicant notes that the arrangement of SCHIEL is analogous to prior art Figure 1 of the instant application, i.e., only

a guide belt positioned on one side of the press is driven. As such, Applicant submits that SCHIEL also fails to appreciate the problem identified by the inventor, and certainly cannot even arguably suggest its solution.

Moreover, while SCHIEL discloses that the guide belt can be felt belt, there is no teaching or suggestion that the felt belt provided in DE '048 (or any of the other applied documents) can withstand the tensions described by SCHIEL in order to operate in the manner required by the guide belt of SCHIEL. In other words, given the stresses to be exerted on and by the guide belt of SCHIEL, it is not apparent from the art of record that one ordinarily skilled in the art would be motivated to utilize such a water permeable wire web for such a use.

Still further, while the Examiner asserts that SCHIEL suggests using a guide belt for each press, Applicant submits that this would appear to create additional considerations, such as problems with regard to speed regulation and control between the guide belts, particularly, since it is unclear how the driving device would be affected by the use of a water permeable wire web as a guide belt.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied documents of record teach or suggest the combination of features recited in at least the independent claims. Moreover, Applicant submits that the art of record fails to provide the requisite motivation or rationale for modifying the art of record in any manner that would render the

instant invention obvious. Thus, Applicant submits that the instant rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that now independent claims 6, 21, and 22 are likewise allowable over the art of record. Further, Applicant notes that these claims are further patentable over the art of record, for the following reasons.

In particular, Applicant notes that none of the applied documents teach or suggest a press plane through said press nip is inclined in relation to a vertical reference, as recited in claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied documents can render unpatentable the combination of features recited in at least independent claim 6. Further, Applicant notes that none of the applied documents teach or suggest, outside of the press nip, that the at least two press belts are guided separately from the at least two sealing belts, as recited in claim 21, and none of the documents teach or suggest that, prior to the press nip, at least one of the at least two press belts is guided around a deflection roll structured and arranged as a belt travel control roll, as recited in claim 22. Thus, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied documents can render unpatentable the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 21 and 22.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner further indicate the allowability of independent claims 1, 6, 21, 22, 23, and 37 in the next official communication.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 2 - 5, 7 - 9 and 12 - 20, 24 - 26, and 28 - 41 are

allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper combination of DE '048 and/or SCHIEL as necessary with MacDONALD and further with Dahl and/or Meinander, and further with Justus teaches or suggests, *inter alia*, said fibrous material web comprises one of a paper and a cardboard web, as recited in claim 2; each of said at least two press belts are dewatering belts, as recited in claim 3; at least two felts arranged on opposite sides of the fibrous material web, whereby said press nip comprises a double-felted press nip, said at least two felts are arranged between said press belts, such that said at least two felts are guided substantially horizontally through said press nip together with the fibrous material web, as recited in claim 4; at least one of said two shoe press units comprises a shoe press roll and said sealing belt comprises a jacket of said shoe press roll, as recited in claim 5; said press plane is inclined in relation to the vertical reference by an angle (α) in the region of approximately 10° to approximately 45°, as recited in claim 7; at least one of said at least two press belts comprises an open press surface, as recited in claim 8; a press surface of said at least one press belt is at least one of blind bored and grooved, as recited in claim 9; said at least one water permeable wire web press belt and said at least one open press surface sealing belt are arranged in a same press shoe unit, as recited in claim 12; at least one deflection roll and a collector positioned in a region of said at least one deflection roll,

subsequent to said press nip, at least one of said at least two press belts is guided around said at least one deflection roll, whereby water thrown off said press belt as it is guided around said at least one deflection roll is collected in said collector, as recited in claim 13; a scraper allocated to said at least one deflection roll, as recited in claim 14; said at least one deflection roll is driven, as recited in claim 15; at least one additional driven deflection roll around which said at least one press belt is guided, as recited in claim 16; said at least one deflection roll is structured and arranged as a belt travel control roll, as recited in claim 17; press surfaces of said at least two press belts have a same hardness, as recited in claim 18; at least one of said at least two sealing belts comprises a continuous, smooth surface, as recited in claim 19; felts with few markings arranged to be guided through said press nip, and said felts being arranged to cause symmetrical dewatering, as recited in claim 20; the fibrous material web comprises at least one of a paper and a cardboard web, as recited in claim 24; said shoe press is the only press, as recited in claim 25; at least two felts arranged on opposite sides of the fibrous material web, whereby said press nip comprises a double-felted press nip, said at least two felts are arranged between said press belts, such that said at least two felts are guided substantially horizontally through said press nip together with the fibrous material web, as recited in claim 26; the fibrous material web is accepted by one of said at least two felts from a wire belt, as recited in claim 27; a suctioned guidance roll located in a region of a transfer position, at least one of said at least two felts is guided around said suctioned

guidance roll, as recited in claim 28; the fibrous material web is accepted from the wire belt by an upper felt, as recited in claim 29; said at least two felts are brought together before said press nip and are subsequently guided to said press nip while sandwiching the fibrous material web, as recited in claim 30; a suctioned guidance roll arranged downstream, relative to a web run direction, from said press nip, the fibrous material web is guided out of said press nip together with said at least two felts and is subsequently guided together with one of said at least two felts around said suctioned guidance roll, which is located in a region in which the fibrous material web is accepted by another section of the machine, as recited in claim 31; a drying wire is guided in the region of said suctioned guidance roll to accept the fibrous material web from said one felt, as recited in claim 32; the one felt comprises a lower felt, such that the fibrous material web is accepted from said lower felt by the drying wire, as recited in claim 33; another guidance roll arranged to guide said one felt, the fibrous material web is accepted by the drying wire in a region between said suctioned guidance roll and said another guidance roll, as recited in claim 34; the drying wire is guided around a suctioned guidance roll in the region of acceptance, as recited in claim 35; said at least two press belts are arranged to be separated immediately after said press nip from said at least two felts which sandwich the fibrous material web, as recited in claim 36; first and second felts arranged to sandwich the fibrous material web, as recited in claim 38; said first and second felts are arranged between said first and second press belts, as recited in claim 39; a pressing

plane of said press nip is obliquely oriented in relation to a vertical reference, as recited in claim 40; said pressing plane is obliquely oriented at an angle of between about 10° and about 45° from the vertical reference, as recited in claim 41.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection claims 1 - 9 and 12 - 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable.

3 DE '048 and/or Schiel as necessary with MacDonald further with Dahl and/or Meinander, and further with Justus and further in view of Laapotti

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 13 - 17, 22, 40, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '048 and/or SCHIEL as necessary with MacDONALD and further with Dahl and/or Meinander as well as with Justus and further in view of LAAPOTTI (U.S. Patent No. 5,662,778). The Examiner asserts that LAAPOTTI shows a press plane inclined, and that it would have been obvious to modify DE '048 and/or SCHIEL with MacDONALD to include such an orientation.

While LAAPOTTI purportedly teaches the use of inclined press planes, Applicant submits LAAPOTTI neither teaches nor suggests the subject matter noted above as deficient in either of DE '048 and SCHIEL (with or without MacDONALD). In particular, LAAPOTTI fails to teach or suggest a press belt comprising a water permeable wire web, as recited in at least the independent claims.

As none of the applied documents teach or suggest at least the above-noted feature,

Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied documents renders unpatentable the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 1, 23, and 37.

Further, Applicant submits that LAAPOTTI also fails to provide the requisite motivation or rationale for additionally including drive belts on each side of the web in a double felted press, such as taught by DE '048, and certainly fails to teach or suggest that at least one of the drive belts is a water permeable wire web, as recited in the independent claims.

Moreover, Applicant submits that LAAPOTTI fails to provide the necessary motivation or rationale for modifying the web guide belt of SCHIEL to be a water permeable wire web, as recited in the independent claims.

Because the applied art fails to provide any motivation or rationale for modifying DE '048 or SCHIEL in any manner which would render the instant invention obvious, Applicant submits that the instant rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 13 - 17, 22, 40, and 41 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper combination of DE '048 and/or SCHIEL as necessary with MacDONALD and further in view of LAAPOTTI teaches or suggests, *inter alia*, at least one deflection roll and a collector positioned in a region of said at least one deflection roll,

subsequent to said press nip, at least one of said at least two press belts is guided around said at least one deflection roll, whereby water thrown off said press belt as it is guided around said at least one deflection roll is collected in said collector, as recited in claim 13; a scraper allocated to said at least one deflection roll, as recited in claim 14; said at least one deflection roll is driven, as recited in claim 15; at least one additional driven deflection roll around which said at least one press belt is guided, as recited in claim 16; said at least one deflection roll is structured and arranged as a belt travel control roll, as recited in claim 17; prior to said press nip, at least one of said at least two press belts is guided around a deflection roll structured and arranged as a belt travel control roll, as recited in claim 22; a pressing plane of said press nip is obliquely oriented in relation to a vertical reference, as recited in claim 40; said pressing plane is obliquely oriented at an angle of between about 10° and about 45° from the vertical reference, as recited in claim 41.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection claims 13 - 17, 22, 40, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable.

Application is Allowable

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of

the present invention.

Authorization to Charge Deposit Account

The Commissioner is authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 19 - 0089 any necessary fees, including any extensions of time fees required to place the application in condition for allowance by Examiner's Amendment, in order to maintain pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention, as recited in each of claims 1 - 9 and 12 - 41. The claims have been amended to eliminate any arguable basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In addition, the applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

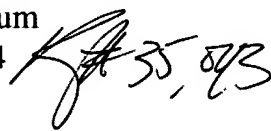
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Respectfully submitted,
Andreas MESCHENMOSER

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Neil F. Greenblum', written over a horizontal line.

Neil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394

Handwritten initials 'JF' followed by the number '35,813'.

January 15, 2003
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

APPENDIX

Marked-Up Copies of the Amended Claims:

6. (Amended) A [The] shoe press [in accordance with claim 1,] for processing a fibrous material web, comprising:

two shoe press units arranged to form an essentially level press nip elongated in a web travel direction;

each of said two shoe press units comprising a circulating flexible, continuous sealing belt and a press shoe, such that said circulating flexible, continuous sealing belt is arranged to be guided over said press shoe in a region of said press nip;

at least one driving device; and

at least two driven continuous press belts each drivably coupled to said at least one driving device and arranged such that at least one of said at least two driven continuous press belts are positioned on each side of the fibrous material web to guide the fibrous material web through said press nip,

wherein at least one of said at least two press belts comprises a water permeable wire web, and at least one of said at least two sealing belts comprises an open press surface that is at least one of blind bored and grooved, and

wherein a press plane through said press nip is inclined in relation to a vertical reference.

21. (Amended) A [The] shoe press [in accordance with claim 1,] for processing

a fibrous material web, comprising:

two shoe press units arranged to form an essentially level press nip elongated in a web travel direction;

each of said two shoe press units comprising a circulating flexible, continuous sealing belt and a press shoe, such that said circulating flexible, continuous sealing belt is arranged to be guided over said press shoe in a region of said press nip;

at least one driving device; and

at least two driven continuous press belts each drivably coupled to said at least one driving device and arranged such that at least one of said at least two driven continuous press belts are positioned on each side of the fibrous material web to guide the fibrous material web through said press nip,

wherein at least one of said at least two press belts comprises a water permeable wire web, and at least one of said at least two sealing belts comprises an open press surface that is at least one of blind bored and grooved, and

wherein, outside of said press nip, said at least two press belts are guided separately from said at least two sealing belts.

22. (Amended) A [The] shoe press [in accordance with claim 1,] for processing a fibrous material web, comprising:

two shoe press units arranged to form an essentially level press nip elongated in a web

travel direction;

each of said two shoe press units comprising a circulating flexible, continuous sealing belt and a press shoe, such that said circulating flexible, continuous sealing belt is arranged to be guided over said press shoe in a region of said press nip;

at least one driving device; and

at least two driven continuous press belts each drivably coupled to said at least one driving device and arranged such that at least one of said at least two driven continuous press belts are positioned on each side of the fibrous material web to guide the fibrous material web through said press nip,

wherein at least one of said at least two press belts comprises a water permeable wire web, and at least one of said at least two sealing belts comprises an open press surface that is at least one of blind bored and grooved, and

wherein, prior to said press nip, at least one of said at least two press belts is guided around a deflection roll structured and arranged as a belt travel control roll.